

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1768

**Introduced by Committee on Public Safety (Leno (Chair),
Dymally, Goldbeg, and Ruskin)**

March 17, 2005

An act to add Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 13974.5) to Part 4 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to victims of crime, and making an appropriation therefor, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1768, as introduced, Committee on Public Safety. Victim compensation trauma services.

Statutory provisions that were repealed as of January 1, 2005, authorized the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board to enter into an interagency agreement with the University of California, San Francisco, to establish a victims of crime recovery center at the San Francisco General Hospital to demonstrate the effectiveness of providing comprehensive and integrated services to victims of crime.

This bill would make legislative findings about the effectiveness of the services provided by the Trauma Recovery Center established as a pilot project under these provisions. It would reauthorize this interagency agreement for the purpose of actually providing these services not just in a demonstration capacity. It would appropriate for this purpose \$3.9 million, including \$1.3 million in each of 3 fiscal years commencing with the 2005-06 fiscal year.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Without treatment, approximately 50 percent of people
4 who survive a traumatic, violent injury experience psychological
5 or social difficulties. Untreated psychological trauma often has
6 severe economic consequences, including overuse of costly
7 medical services, loss of income, failure to return to gainful
8 employment, loss of medical insurance, and loss of stable
9 housing.

10 (b) The Trauma Recovery Center at San Francisco General
11 Hospital/University of California, San Francisco, is an
12 award-winning, nationally recognized program created in 2001 in
13 partnership with the State of California Victim Compensation
14 and Government Claims Board. The center was established as a
15 four-year pilot project to develop and test a comprehensive
16 model of care as an alternative to fee-for-service care reimbursed
17 by victim restitution funds. It was designed to increase access for
18 crime victims to these funds.

19 (c) During the Trauma Recovery Center's four-year history, its
20 accomplishments include:

21 (1) Identifying and treating 854 crime victims.

22 (2) Increasing the rate by which sexual assault victims
23 received mental health followup services, from 6 percent to 71
24 percent.

25 (3) Successfully linking 53 percent of patients to legal
26 services, 40 percent to vocational services, 31 percent to safer
27 and more permanent housing, and 22 percent to other financial
28 entitlements.

29 (4) Improving cooperation with police, including an increase
30 in police reports filed by sexual assault victims from 42 percent
31 to 71 percent.

32 (5) Increasing return to employment by 56 percent of victims
33 compared to victims who did not have Trauma Recovery Center
34 services. Many of these people resumed paying taxes and
35 escaped the spiral into bankruptcy, loss of housing, and loss of
36 medical insurance.

1 SEC. 2. Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 13974.5) is
2 added to Part 4 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,
3 to read:

4
5 CHAPTER 6. VICTIMS OF CRIME RECOVERY CENTER
6

7 13974.5. (a) The California Victim Compensation and
8 Government Claims Board shall enter into an interagency
9 agreement with the University of California, San Francisco, to
10 establish a victims of crime recovery center at the San Francisco
11 General Hospital for the purpose of providing comprehensive
12 and integrated services to victims of crime, subject to conditions
13 set forth by the board.

14 (b) This section shall not apply to the University of California
15 unless the Regents of the University of California, by appropriate
16 resolution, make this section applicable.

17 (c) This section shall only be implemented to the extent that
18 funding is appropriated for that purpose.

19 SEC. 3. The sum of three million nine hundred thousand
20 dollars (\$3,900,000), including one million three hundred
21 thousand dollars (\$1,300,000) for the fiscal year commencing
22 July 1, 2005, one million three hundred thousand dollars
23 (\$1,300,000) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2006, and
24 one million three hundred thousand dollars (\$1,300,000) for the
25 fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007, is hereby appropriated
26 from the Restitution Fund to the California Victim Compensation
27 and Government Claims Board for the implementation of the
28 interagency agreement specified in Section 13974.5 of the
29 Government Code for the purpose of continued funding for the
30 Trauma Recovery Center at the San Francisco General Hospital.

31 SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
32 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety
33 within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go
34 into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

35 In order to ensure the uninterrupted provision of vital services
36 to victims of trauma, it is necessary that this act take effect
37 immediately.